

NOTES IN MUNSTER.

At Limerick, the Mount St. Vincent Convent has been given up by the contractors, Messrs. Duggan and M'Clean, and is now occupied. A chapel and school-house we heard are to be added, and that the delay at present arises from a deficiency of funds. The grounds are in an unfinished state. Mr. Neville, county surveyor, of Louth, is (we believe) the architect. The cathedral is undergoing trifling improvements and repairs. The eastern window is a peculiar specimen of perpendicular Gothic. Although the architecture of the building is not very striking, yet the aspect is venerable. In the massive tower and castellated embrasures there is a quaintness of appearance. The nave and transept are set apart for the congregation. The former contains at its eastern side a monument of black marble to the memory of Donagh O'Brien, Earl of Thomond, restored in 1678. Lord Glensworth's tomb is situated in a recess about 20 feet by 15 feet, approached by a spacious arch of four bays, with decorated tracery of Caen stone and pillars of grey marble. The roof is of panelled wood tracery, with gilt stars inlaid on a dark ground. We noticed the following peculiar inscription on a slab about 2 feet by 19 inches:—

"*Memento mori.*" Here Lieth Little Samuel Barinton, that great Undertaker of famous cities clock and chime maker, he made his one time goe early and latter, but now he is returned to God is Creator. The J9 of November then he seest, And for his memory this here is pleasit by his son Den, J693."

The Christian Brothers have built a large addition to their premises. Russell's large factory (in progress), and the new docks (nearly finished), are worthy of an inspection. A new mechanics' institute is badly wanted.

At Adare, we were told that the foundations of the church are sinking: it is evidently built on a swamp. A school-house is being built in connection with the Roman Catholic church, which has been greatly increased of late. The village contains remarkably comfortable and clean cottages for the peasantry and labouring classes. Many interesting ruins of the strongholds of the Desmond family are to be seen in all directions between Croagh and Rathkeale, also at Glenquin. The new church at Croagh is a neat structure, and an evidence of what may be produced by a skilful hand for a small outlay. At Rathkeale there are symptoms of improvement. In the locality of Abbeyfeale the Encumbered Estates Act is likely to be beneficial: the proprietor of the village (Mr. Ellis) is building a mansion-house from the designs of Mr. Lyons; Messrs. Meagher and Son, contractors. A bridge over the river Feale, and other works, are talked of. A new infant school is to be built at Listowel, and a new market-house at Tralee. Mr. Patterson, builder, has finished Glin workhouse. At Killarney the railway is giving employment to large numbers, and the contemplated hotel, together with the villas to be erected here by English capitalists, will serve the labouring classes materially.

Messrs. Burgess and Sons have been erecting the new workhouses at Mitchelstown, Kildysert, and Portumna, at an average expenditure of about 5,000*l.* each. The carpentry work has been executed by machinery, and the workshops at Limerick deserve a visit.

A school-house, 60 feet by 30, and six model cottages for poor widows, are being erected by Mrs. Low, of Spring House, Tipperary.

A monument to O'Connell is projected at Limerick. The mayor is stated to be in treaty with Hogan, the sculptor, on the subject.

The interior of the church at Nanterman has been remodelled.

The projected line from Limerick to Foynes is assuming a serious aspect. Nearly all the shares are purchased, and the Bill for its construction will be before Parliament immediately.

The tunnel at Cork, 1,350 yards long, is in progress. 1,100 yards remain to be executed, and 300 men are engaged on the work respectively between night and day. It will be

opened in about eighteen months. A floating-dock is talked of. The Roman Catholic Church at Sunday's Well is progressing. We have noticed in a previous number the building-works at Queenstown. Harbour improvements are projected.

The Killarney Junction Railway Company have awarded to Messrs. Atkins and Johnson, and Mr. Brash, of Cork, already mentioned, a premium of 50*l.* for plans for Killarney Hotel.

SIGHTS AND SCENERY.

The Haymarket Theatre.—"Masks and Faces, or Before and Behind the Curtain," is one of the most complete and effective dramas of its class that has been produced for some time; well mounted and admirably acted, especially by Mr. Webster, Mrs. Stirling, and Miss Rosa Bennett. The drama deals with the time when Peg Woffington, Kitty Clive, Colley Cibber, and Quin flourished; they all appear in it. If we are not mistaken it will long keep its place on the English stage. The authors are Messrs. Tom Taylor and Reade. Webster's *Triplet* is a charming personation.

The Lyceum Theatre.—"Uncle Tom," having been placed literally on the stage of half-a-dozen theatres, even set a horseback at Asley's, is now made the reason for a piece at the Lyceum, the sentiment of which, so to speak, is shown by its title, "Those Dear Blacks." Mr. Suter, as a nigger who has come in for a fortune, shows more cleverness than usual; and Mr. Charles Mathews, as a very fast young man reduced to his last penny, and who by the force of impudence, makes his master his servant, and bullies Dame Fortune ultimately into good humour with him, has a part well suited to him. The first scene represents the end of the chain-pier at Brighton; well contrived.

Burford's Panorama of the Waterloo.—The turn of the public mind at this moment has led Mr. Burford to re-exhibit his well-known panorama of the Battle of Waterloo. The wickedness and absurdity of artificial war strike the mind forcibly when contemplating this "counterfeit presentment" of a terrific carnage.

SELF-SUPPORT OF PAUPERS

A CONFERENCE of deputations from boards of guardians in different parts of the country, and of other gentlemen interested in the question of the productive employment of paupers, has been held in the Town-hall, Manchester, for the purpose of giving and receiving information on matters connected with that question, and of determining on the course to be pursued in order to attain the objects they have in view.

The chair was occupied by a member of Parliament, Viscount Goderich; and there were several other M.P.'s present, and communications from many more, interested in and favourable to the reproductive employment of paupers, were read, as well as from various boards of guardians who have tried the system, and who uniformly recommend its general adoption. In fact, the recent experimental trial of it in Ireland and in this country appears to have resulted in the realization of all the good we long since anticipated from it, and even of more; for it has already been proved to have diminished crime as well as idleness, and to have substituted order for insubordination, and industrial instruction in the place of uselessness and ignorance. Moreover it has emptied the workhouses, in place of filling them, as anticipated by some; and in no case does it appear to have interfered with industrial self-dependence or independent labour, but the contrary, as remarked.

As a sort of summary of much that is said in its favour by those members of Parliament and poor-law guardians who have detailed their experience and opinions on the subject, we may here quote from what Mr. James Bell, M.P. has written to the conference:—"I fully admit the correctness of the principle, and am of opinion that the question is one of the most important that can engage public attention. It has always appeared to me an extraordinary anomaly that this country should possess an excess of labour, a considerable extent of un-

cultivated land, and an abundance of manure which, if brought to act upon each other, might be a source of wealth; whereas the sewage from our towns is only employed to contaminate the water with which they are supplied; the labourers, from being taught habits of idleness, recruit the ranks of criminals; the waste lands are useless; and the capital necessary to render all these available for increasing the wealth of the country is employed in maintaining these able-bodied labourers in idleness, and preventing the lower classes from acquiring habits of self-dependence."

Mr. Scully, M.P. moved the following resolution:—

"That this conference, having heard with satisfaction the statements made by guardians and others familiar with poor-law administration, relative to the industrial employments successfully carried on (in lieu of idleness and useless tests) in various unions throughout the United Kingdom, pledges itself individually and collectively to increased exertions in promoting the more general adoption of the humane and economical system of productive labour, proposed by the Poor-Law Association, and in procuring the abrogation of all legal and other restrictions which at present interfere with the free agency of boards of guardians in the purchase and taking of land, and the disposal of the produce of the industrial operations carried on in various unions, so as not to interfere with independent labour."

The resolution was carried, as also others, recommending the introduction of the question in Parliament—the establishment of branch associations—the circulation of the *Constitutional*, a monthly periodical, intended to form a medium of communication between boards of guardians, and a record of progress,—and determining the name of the association to be "The National Poor-Law Association."

We are sanguine that this important question will be speedily discussed in Parliament, and that a complete reform in the poor-law—or rather a return to the ancient practice—so far as regards useful employment and self-support,—will be the result.

NEW PREMIUM LIST OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

THE Society of Arts, though within a year of its centenary, still displays the vigour of youth. Having adopted the subdivisions of the Great Exhibition for their standing committees, their premium list for the ensuing session of 1852-53, has been made to accord with that arrangement. This list is eminently suggestive, pointing at many of the desiderata, as well as novelties, of the times. Greater attention is of course paid to those departments of the applied sciences which may be looked upon as its peculiar province. Colonial produce and manufactures may be particularly instanced as subjects entirely untouched by any other existing institution. The section of raw materials, in which colonial articles are included, embraces a wide range of subjects. The chemical arts and processes here, somewhat oddly, find a home; and though in this class there may be introduced more of what looks rather like the aspirations of the scientific chemist than of the practical man,—these are not days for despising the most hopeful anticipations of science.

The manufacture of iron as carried on in different districts and countries (No. 2) is important at the present moment, when the superiority of the measures practised in England begin to be doubted. And America is said to turn out better iron, for many purposes where hardness and tenacity are required, than the mother country. This may be rather due to the nature of the materials employed in reducing the ore, the flux, and especially the anthracite coal, than to any more skilful manipulation. Within our own immediate province premiums are offered for the best essays on the chemical composition of rocks (No. 6), on paving-stones (No. 9), and on granite and the relative fitness of different kinds for engineering and architectural purposes (No. 10).

The close connection between machinery and manufactures renders many of the subjects enumerated in the second section, under the former head, but the forerunners of the latter.